


F.O.G. Prevention

Frequently Asked Questions

Q- What is *F.O.G.*? 

F.O.G. is short for Fats, Oils, and Grease. F.O.G. is found in many foods; such as meats, sauces, salad dressings, foods cooked in deep fat fryers, cookies, pastries, dairy products and many, many more.

Q- Why is F.O.G. a problem? 

F.O.G. in the sanitary sewer system coats the insides of the pipes, causing maintenance problems. The consequences include reduced sewer capacity and pipe blockages which can lead to sanitary sewer stoppages and overflows. These overflows are public health and environmental hazards, as well as a financial burden to residents, businesses, and Carmel Utilities. F.O.G. can also damage equipment and appurtenances vital to the proper operation of the wastewater utility and its treatment processes.

Q- How do I avoid adding excess F.O.G. into the sewer system?

The DO List... 

1. DO scrape all food scraps and grease solids into the garbage.
2. DO collect excess frying grease in a separate container for proper disposal.
3. DO “dry wipe” your pots and pans prior to washing them.
4. DO call 317-571-2645 for additional information.

The DON'T List... 

1. DON'T rinse off food scraps and grease from plates, pots, and pans using hot water, and flush it down your kitchen drain.
 2. DON'T pour F.O.G. (salad oils, butter, shortening, grease, cooking oil, soups, etc.) down your kitchen drains.
 3. DON'T overuse your garbage disposal – *your sink drains are not trash cans!!*
 4. DON'T get lost in the F.O.G.!
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Q- Why should I care how much F.O.G. goes down my drains?!?
Isn't the city responsible for cleaning the sanitary sewer system?



Because, too much of this...



...can lead to this!



F.O.G. damages Carmel's sewer system, creates blockages, and it is one of the main causes of sewer overflows. The utility spends thousands of dollars every year to perform extra maintenance on its sewer system due to excess F.O.G.

There are also problem areas, also known as F.O.G. "Hot-Spots", which even necessitate either mechanical or chemical cleaning that amounts to roughly 12x over and above what would be considered regularly scheduled maintenance. The time and resources that the Carmel Wastewater Utility dedicates to prevent F.O.G. stoppages and overflows in these areas could possibly be reallocated if the levels of F.O.G. in the sewer system were effectively reduced. This, in turn, could provide for a more efficient level of service to the community as a whole, which is Carmel's ultimate objective.